

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 16, 2004, the Examiner issued a restriction/election requirement requiring Applicant to elect one of the following groups:

- I. Claims 1-8, 26, 41, 42, 44 and 50, drawn to calculating pixel value;
- II. Claims 9, 24, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 43, 45, 46, 47 and 48, drawn to evaluating positional relation among candidates; or
- III. Claims 23, 27 and 49, drawn to density gradient calculation.

In response, Applicant provisionally elects to pursue prosecution of Group I, which includes claims 1-8, 26, 41, 42, 44 and 50.

Further, the non-elected claims (claims 9, 23, 24, 27, 32, 33, 35, 37-39, 43 and 45-49) have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Response to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4532.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any


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overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No.
1232-4532.

Respectfully submitted,
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